

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-10. (Cancelled).

11. (New) A method of transporting a first data stream of a first bit rate through a Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (SDH) switched network from a first endpoint to a second endpoint using TDM, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) demultiplexing the first data stream from the first endpoint onto a number of Single-pair High-speed Digital Subscriber Lines (SHDSLs) each having a second data stream of a SHDSL adjusted second bit rate;
- b) mapping each of the second data streams into data bit or unused overhead bit positions of SDH specified data containers; and,
- c) multiplexing the data containers into the SDH switched network.

12. (New) The method according to claim 11, wherein steps a) and b) are switched in order to retrieve the first bit rate at the second endpoint side.

13. (New) The method according to claim 11, wherein, in each of the second data streams, there is included an overhead of a third bit rate incorporating framing words, alarm indication or a transmission quality measurement.

14. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein at least a part of the overhead includes frame synchronization words for measuring delay differences between the SHDSL lines for securing end-to-end integrity of the second data streams.

15. (New) The method according to claim 11, wherein the data containers are C-12 containers with a bit rate of 2.176 Mbits/s.

16. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein the data bit positions are C-12 D-bit positions and the unused overhead bit positions are C-12 R-bit positions.

17. (New) The method according to claim 11, wherein the number of SHDSLs is four, and the second bit rate is 2.120 Mbit/s.

18. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein the first bit rate is 8.448 Mbit/s and the third bit rate is 8 Kbit/s.

19. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein the R-bit positions used are 8 R-bit positions in each of byte 34, 68, 102 and 136 in addition to bit number 7 in byte 1, 35, 69, and 103.

20. (New) The method according to claim 11, wherein the first bit rate is X Mbits/s, the second bit rate is $i \times 8 \text{ kbits/s}$ ($i \in [1, 7]$) plus $n \times 64 \text{ kbits/s}$ ($n \in [1, 36]$), and the number of SHDSL lines is N and the number of datacontainers are N, wherein N and X are any integer number.